OPINION 1968

Phytobius Schönherr, 1833 (Insecta, Coleoptera): placed on the Official List

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; CURCULIONIDAE; *Phytobius*; *Phytobius leucogaster*; weevils.

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary power the entry for the name *Phytobius* Dejean, 1835 is hereby deleted from the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(2) The name *Phytobius* Schönherr, 1833 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation of the replaced nominal genus *Hydaticus* Schönherr, 1825, *Rhynchaenus myriophylli* Gyllenhal, 1813 (a junior subjective synonym of *Curculio leucogaster* Marsham, 1802), is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *leucogaster* Marsham, 1802, as published in the binomen *Curculio leucogaster* (senior subjective synonym of *Rhynchaenus myriophylli* Gyllenhal, 1813, the type species of *Phytobius* Schönherr, 1833), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *Hydaticus* Schönherr, 1825 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (a junior homonym of *Hydaticus* Leach, 1817).

History of Case 2957

An application for the conservation of the generic name *Phytobius* Dejean, 1835 by the suppression of *Phytobius* Schönherr, 1833 was received from Dr H. Silfverberg (*Zoological Museum, Helsingfors Universitet, Finland*) on 21 November 1994. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **55**: 22–23 (March 1998). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

An earlier application (1980) by Dr Silfverberg resulted in the placement of the name *Phytobius* Dejean, 1835 on the Official List with *Curculio quadrituberculatus* Fabricius, 1787 as the type species by subsequent designation by Thomson (1859) (Opinion 1529, March 1989).

However, O'Brien & Wibmer (1982, 1984) had previously pointed out that the name *Phytobius* was first published by Schönherr in 1833 and that it was a replacement name for the junior homonym *Hydaticus* Schönherr, 1825. The type species, by original designation, for *Hydaticus* Schönherr is *Rhynchaenus myriophylli* Gyllenhal, 1813 which, under Article 67.8 of the Code, is also the type species of *Phytobius* Schönherr (the senior subjective synonym *Curculio leucogaster* Marsham, 1802 is the valid name of the taxon).

The current application sought to suppress *Phytobius* from Schönherr (1833) in order to retain the authorship and date of Dejean (1835) and *C. quadrituberculatus* as the type species.

Comments opposing the application from Dr Enzo Colonelli (*Rome, Italy*) and from Drs Miguel A. Alonso-Zarazaga (*Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales,*

Madrid, Spain) & Christopher H.C. Lyal (*The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) were published in BZN **56**: 191–197 (September 1999). These authors were in accord with O'Brien & Wibmer's (1984) interpretation; they noted that usages of the name *Phytobius* in Schönherr (1833), Dejean (1835) and Schönherr (1835) refer to the same taxon; that the previous acceptance by the Commission of Thomson's (1859) type designation for *Phytobius* was in error; that many authors, both before and after 1984, used the name *Phytobius* in the sense of Schönherr (1833), i.e. with *R. myriophylli* as the type species (BZN **56**: 192, paras. 7 and 8; 195, para. 4); that *C. quadrituberculatus* has been included in *Pelenomus* Thomson, 1859 by a number of authors (BZN **56**: 195, para. 4); and that the family-group name PHYTOBIINI Gistel, 1856 is based on *Phytobius* Schönherr, 1833.

A reply by the author of the application was published in BZN **56**: 197 (September 1999).

The course proposed by Dr Silfverberg (to suppress the name *Phytobius* Schönherr, 1833, and to retain the authorship and date as Dejean (1835) and *Curculio quadrituberculatus* Fabricius, 1787 as the type species, set out in BZN **55**: 23) and that proposed by Drs Colonelli, Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal (to set aside the previous ruling and to place *Phytobius* Schönherr, 1833 on the Official List, with *Rhynchaenus myriophylli* Gyellenhal, 1813 as the type species, set out in BZN **56**: 196) were offered as alternatives for voting. Both courses required the use of the plenary power.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2000 the members of the Commission were invited to vote either on the proposals published in BZN **55**: 23 or on those published in BZN **56**: 196. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2000 the votes were as follows:

Proposals set out in BZN **55**: 23 — 1: Bock

Proposals set out in BZN **56**: 196 — 19: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bouchet, Brothers, Calder, Cogger, Kerzhner, Kraus, Lamas, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Ng, Nielsen, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Song and Štys.

No votes were received from Dupuis, Eschmeyer and Ride.

Minelli was on leave of absence.

Papp commented: 'It is clear that in 1989 the Commission was in error in approving the original application'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Hydaticus Schönherr, 1825, *Isis von Oken*, **16**: col. 583.

leucogaster, *Curculio*, Marsham, 1802, *Coleoptera Britannica*, vol. 1, p. 253.

Phytobius Schönherr, 1833, *Genus et species Curculionidum cum synonymia hujus familiae*, vol. 1, p. 20.